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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 938

Sponsor: Senator Jack Welborn

Committee: Criminal Justice, Urban Affairs, and Economic Development

Date Completed: 9-28-88

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 938 as introduced 6-29-88:

The bill would amend the Department of Corrections (DOC) Act to create and empower a "Community Alternatives Programs Board" within the DOC. The proposed board would operate as an autonomous entity, independent of the DOC Director.

The board would consist of seven members, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, who would serve three-year terms. (The terms of the first members would be staggered.) Twice each year, a member of the board would have to be elected to be chairperson by a majority of members. Other officers could be appointed as the board considered necessary. Vacancies would have to be filled for the balance of unexpired terms in the same manner as original appointments. Per diem compensation and the schedule for reimbursement of members' expenses would be the same as is established annually by the Legislature for similar boards.

Any business performed by the board would have to be conducted at a meeting in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and official documents would have to be made available to the public in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

The board would be required to "develop standards for the security, safety, and operation of community alternatives programs" and would have to ensure compliance with such standards.

The bill would define "community alternatives program" as "a program or facility intended to provide a community-based alternative to incarceration" and would include but not be limited to community corrections centers, halfway houses, and resident homes.

Proposed MCL 791.269

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would result in a State GF/GP expenditure increase of \$6,300 to \$18,900 in FY 1988-89.

Based on a \$75 per diem reimbursement rate per board member, each meeting day would cost the State \$525. Assuming the full board were to meet one day each month, the annual cost of reimbursing board members would be \$6,300. The \$6,300 to \$18,900 range is given because it is not known how often and for how many days per month the board would have to meet to conduct its business.

Fiscal Analyst: B. Burghardt

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.